

Community News

JSC again opens doors to public

Open house set for Saturday, August 23

By Jovan-Justine Love

JSC will open its doors to the public once again from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 23 for its annual open house event. This is a day when NASA's laboratories, training facilities and Mission Control Center are opened to welcome the Houston community behind the scenes of the nation's space program. The JSC open house is free and gives the public a much closer look at NASA's programs and operations.

The first JSC open house was held in 1964 with more than 52,000 visitors (see page 6). In more recent times, August 1995, the open house had more than 70,000 visitors. And in spite of the rainy weather, last year's event still hosted approximately 20,000 visitors.

"Our people are the best ambassadors for the space program," said JSC Director George Abbey. "Their enthusiasm and dedication combined with JSC's impressive facilities and exciting programs really get our story across to the public. We look forward to this year's open house being the best ever."

The open house planning committee, including organizational representatives from across the center, already is at work arranging this year's event and will be needing many volunteers—come rain or shine. Volunteers will be needed to set-up and manage booths, staff exhibits, greet the public, hand out literature, act as tour guides, work with children, clean up and for a variety of other logistics.

Employees can volunteer for the open house through their directorate planning committee representative. Additional information on the JSC Open House will appear in upcoming Space News Roundup articles.

Correction

The June 6 issue of the Space News Roundup incorrectly spelled the name of Mary Wylie on the photo caption on page 10. In addition, the proposal occurred in the Bldg. 11 cafeteria, not Bldg. 3.



St. Luke's employees and JSC blood drive committee members use gallon milk containers to portray the volume of blood JSC collected at the record-setting drive last October when they drew 506 pints, or 63 gallons, of blood. From left are Craig Valiare, Carla Guidry, Rebecca Joseph, Bill Stockton, Tammy Harris, Marty Demaret, Jay Voss, Amy Mendez, Truda Carlblom, Richard Schmidgall, Patricia Hines, Richard Delgado, Becky Derbonne, Stephanie Logsdon, Jannette Jackson and Dan Mangieri.

June blood drive nets 309 donations

Blood drive committee wins public service award

JSC's blood drives continue to bring in record-setting donations, and committee members were recognized recently for their efforts in increasing the community's blood supply.

Dan Mangieri, co-chairman of the Blood Drive Committee accepted the Wally Grimes Public Service Award on behalf of all the committee members at the Public Service Recognition ceremony sponsored by the Federal Executive Board last month.

"We have a great group of folks here at JSC, both the committee members and the donors. They have really come through for the community," Mangieri said. "There is no substitute for human blood, and a sufficient, safe supply is vital to the well-being of Houston and our surrounding communities."

As a part of JSC's philosophy of "giving back to the community," in February 1996, the center decided to initiate an effort to boost participation in its Onsite Blood Drive Program. The Human Resources Office spearheaded the effort by surveying prior blood donors to determine what program changes were necessary to increase donor participation, and by forming the Blood Drive Committee to respond to needs identified through the survey. Feedback from the survey indicated that convenience was a major factor for donors because it was difficult for employees to break away from the office to give blood with increasing workloads.

The committee responded by moving the blood drive from the Gilruth to Teague

Auditorium, and expanding blood drive hours, including keeping it open during lunch. The blood drive committee also formed a publicity team that helped get the word out prior to blood drives using announcements at staff meetings, electronic mail notices, posters, banners, news articles and initiation of special promotions. In addition, senior managers have set an example by turning out to donate blood.

"The results of the Blood Drive Committee's efforts paid off in a big way," Mangieri said. The first blood drive after the initiative resulted in more than 300 donors—almost six times the turnout from the previous drive. In the first four drives since redesigning the program, JSC netted a total of 1,503 blood donations. Last October's drive alone turned out a record 506 donors. More recently, this month's blood drive netted 309 donations.

Results from a recent benchmarking exercise at JSC, show the center has become a leader among corporate sponsors of blood drives in the Houston area. The timeliness of JSC blood drives also has helped to bolster blood supplies, particularly during holiday shortages.

Committee members said JSC has stepped up to its responsibility to generously give something back to its community. St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital said the successful blood drives could not have been accomplished without the extraordinary efforts of the Blood Drive Committee.

Teachers come back to school

By Billie Deason

The chalk dust had barely settled from the busy school year when teachers began arriving at JSC for a series of seven professional development workshops.

Taking a busman's holiday, teachers from around the world will spend time going back to school this summer at JSC.

With a focus on JSC's unique mission in human space flight and using JSC technical experts, teacher participants will learn how the science, mathematics and technology of the space program can cross the curriculum in the subjects they teach.

The JSC teacher workshops are designed to expand the participants' aerospace knowledge, teach ways to use aerospace topics in the classroom, enhance the teachers' knowledge of new technology and enable the teacher participants to learn about specific NASA projects directly from the scientists and engineers working in the agency's programs.

A "Friends and Family" workshop will host 22 kindergarten through 12th grade teachers who are family members or close friends of civil services and contractor employees.

Teams of Clear Creek ISD intermediate teachers representing several disciplines will focus on the International Space Station Program and using technology in the classroom.

Ten teams of middle school teachers will participate in activities about the exploration of Mars, and robotic and human missions. The workshop runs for 13 days, with a three-day follow-up session at JSC in the fall and two days at each of the teacher's schools in the spring of 1998.

For the fourteenth consecutive year, 25 teachers from Department of State overseas schools will travel from around the world to JSC for a general aerospace workshop.

JSC will host 25 elementary school teachers from 11 states for the NASA Education Workshop for Elementary School Teachers. This Headquarters-funded program selected teachers through a nationwide competitive process.

Teams of middle school teachers from Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and South Dakota will spend three weeks at JSC in the International Space Station Program Life Sciences Workshop. This workshop leads the teacher teams in developing a classroom investigation for their students to conduct over the coming school year, with the students' findings being shared among the classes over the Internet. The JSC workshops began June 4 and continue through Aug. 8.

Employees can improve speaking skills easily

JSC employees have the opportunity to improve their speaking skills.

Several groups meet Wednesdays around the Clear Lake and welcome new members. The Clear Lake Communicators meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Lockheed Martin, 555 Forge River Road. The Spaceteam Toastmasters meet at 11:30 a.m. at United Space Alliance, 600 Gemini. The Spaceland Toastmasters meet at 7 a.m. at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church. For more information on these or other clubs, check out the Dates and Data column on Page 7.

Employees' children earn NASA, JSC scholarships

A child of a JSC employee has earned a JSC Exchange Scholarship for 1997. Five other students, children of employees at other NASA centers, earned this year's NASA College Scholarships.

This winner of this year's JSC award was Selina Mareie Marquez, daughter of Rosemarie Marquez of the Safety Reliability and Quality Assurance Office at White Sands Missile Range.

Marquez attended Las Cruces High School and graduated in May. She currently attends New Mexico State University and will major in chemistry or biology. She is a member of the National Honor Society.

Marquez will receive \$4,000—up to \$1,000 a year—toward tuition at the university of her choice. Selection was based on overall scholastic achievements, extent of financial need and breadth and substance of school and community activities.

This year's winners of the NASA College Scholarship Fund were Virginia Ann Miller, Laila Hlass, and

Christine Andres from Stennis Space Center; Ron Alterovitz from Lewis Research Center; and Sucharit Suresh Joshi from Langley Research Center.

The NASA College Scholarship Fund Inc., board of directors has determined that five scholarships will be awarded again next year. Each scholarship will be renewable annually for a maximum of \$8,000 over six calendar years.

The Scholarship Fund was established to award scholarships agencywide to qualified dependents of NASA and former NASA employees. The fund was established as a direct result of a substantial gift by the noted Pulitzer Prize winning author, James A. Michener. Many NASA employees have contributed to the fund directly or through the Combined Federal Campaign. Other major contributors include the Freedom Forum (to honor the Hubble crew members in 1994 and again in 1996 to honor Shannon Lucid) and the JSC Chapter of the NASA Alumni League.

JSC Safety Alert

Overhead task light hazard

What Happened

A new task light had an electrical short during a functional test in the Building 337 warehouse. The task lights are meant to be mounted underneath the overhead shelf of modular furniture work stations located in most JSC offices.

Outcome of the Investigation

The task light, manufactured by Heritage Supply Inc., was taken apart, and damage to the wiring was discovered. The installation holes were drilled directly above the electrical wires, fraying them in the process. Due to possibly damaged wires in other task lights, the potential exists for a possible shock hazard.

What You Can Do

There are 422 of these task lights in use at JSC and Ellington Field. They have the following features that distinguish them from others: a double bulb; white housing casing; an outlet near the on/off switch and a black cord on the right side of the light.

Check the task light mounted under bookcases or computer hutches in your area immediately. If they meet the description above, do not use them. Report item to Betsy Hodges at x 38113 or Ruby McDade at x36659 and give name, building, room number and the number of task lights in use.

When all of the lights are located, Center Operations Directorate will conduct inspections with the manufacturer to correct any problems.